

PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINCY: THE CORE OF SPIRITUAL CARE

ROLE OF SPIRITUAL CARE

HEALTH INSURERS AND CARE DELIVERY PROGRAMS SHOULD COVER COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS NEARING END OF LIFE, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

EVOLVING



Source: "Dying in America" report, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2014

CURRENT CLINICAL PRACTICE INCLUDES:

SPIRITUAL SCREENING QUESTIONS

SPIRITUAL HISTORY QUESTIONS

SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT BY A CHAPLAIN

Source: Templeton Press, 2010

PALLIATIVE CARE THROUGHOUT THE CONTINUUM OF ILLNESS INCLUDES ADDRESSING SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Source: National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, 3rd edition 2013

FREQUENT ASSESSMENT OF A PATIENT'S SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING, AND ATTENTION TO A PATIENT'S SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS NEEDS SHOULD BE AMONG THE CORE COMPONENTS OF QUALITY END-OF-LIFE CARE ACROSS ALL SETTINGS AND PROVIDERS.

Source: "Dying in America" report, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2014



INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEMBER

PRACTICE GUIDELINES ESPECIALLY IN PALLIATIVE CARE CALL FOR A BOARD CERTIFIED CHAPLAIN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH CARE TEAM.



WHY INCLUDE A CHAPLAIN IN THE HEALTH CARE TEAM?

HELPS IDENTIFY PARAMETERS FOR CHAPLAINCY REFERRAL

PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS INTO TREATMENT PLAN

INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF CONSIDERING THE PATIENT AS A WHOLE

Sources: Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy, 2012; Journal of Palliative Medicine, 2009

Medicare's hospice benefit covers chaplain services.

INTERVENTIONS BY AN INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH CARE TEAM THAT INCLUDES CHAPLAINS CAN LEAD TO FEWER HOSPITAL TRANSFERS FOR GERIATRIC SKILLED NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS.

Source: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 2011

89%

of physicians had experience with a chaplain

90%

were satisfied or very satisfied

Source: Archives of Internal Medicine, 2009

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

CHAPLAINS HELP PATIENTS

- COPE WITH THEIR ILLNESS
- ALIGN CARE PLANS WITH VALUES, PROMOTING A CULTURE OF RESPECT AND DIGNITY
- TAP INTO INNER STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Sources: BMC Palliative Care, 2014; BMC Palliative Care, 2015; Journal of Palliative Medicine, 2009

Professional chaplains facilitate end-of-life care discussions for advanced cancer patients that can influence patient satisfaction, hospice enrollment, and better quality of life near death.



Sources: Journal of Clinical Oncology, 2007, 2009; Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 2011

OF 1,140 CHAPLAIN INTERVENTIONS, VISITS CENTERED ON:

"ULTIMATE CONCERNS"
[life review, family concerns]

30%

"PRACTICAL MATTERS"
[emotions, existential matters, religious/spiritual matters, physical symptoms]

70%

Source: HCCN Caring for the Human Spirit Conference, 2014

#1 REASON

PARTICIPANTS USE SPIRITUAL CARE CALL CENTER STAFFED BY PROFESSIONAL CHAPLAINS

43%

"They have no one else"



28%

"They wanted to talk to someone"

Source: HCCN Chat with a Chaplain survey, 2014-15

GAPS TO FILL



Many more inpatients desire conversations about religion/spirituality than have them.

Source: BMC Palliative Care, 2012

More than one-quarter of all adults, including those 75 and older, have given little or no thought to their end-of-life wishes

Source: "Dying in America" report, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2014



72%

of advanced cancer patients said their spiritual needs were minimally or not at all supported by the medical system.

Source: Journal of Clinical Oncology, 2007

PATIENT SATISFACTION

80%

of patients with spiritual/religious needs said the chaplain met these needs very well.

Source: Journal of Palliative Medicine, 2009

A strong association exists between SATISFACTION with spiritual care and satisfaction with total ICU experience.

Source: Critical Care Medicine, 2007

Spiritual care is associated with better patient quality of life near death.



Source: The Journal of Clinical Oncology, 2009

INSTITUTIONAL BOTTOM-LINE

INADEQUATELY-SUPPORTED SPIRITUAL NEEDS LEADS TO

- MORE DEATHS IN ICU
- HIGHER END-OF-LIFE COSTS

Source: Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 2011

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES ARE RELATED TO

Source: BMC Palliative Care, 2012

SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER RATES OF HOSPITAL DEATHS

HIGHER RATES OF HOSPICE ENROLLMENT

CHAPLAIN VISITS RESULT IN

- INCREASED SCORES ON PATIENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS (HCAHPS, Press Ganey)
- OVERALL PATIENT SATISFACTION
- PATIENT'S WILLINGNESS TO RECOMMEND HOSPITAL

Source: Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy, 2015

